Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering barrier function in a skin, comprising:

applying to an effective amount of a skin external composition comprising 1-40% by weight of an insoluble powder having a negative value of zeta-potential measured in Tris-HCl buffer at pH 7.5 and a main ingredient of barium sulfate doped with a metal ion;

wherein said powder has an average primary particle diameter of 3 to 100 μm and aspect ratio of 3 to 250; and

wherein said metal ion is one selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium and zinc

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Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing roughness and improving conditions of a skin comprising:

applying to an effective amount of a skin external composition comprising 1-40% by weight of an insoluble powder having a negative value of zeta-potential measured in Tris-HCl buffer at pH 7.5 and a main ingredient of barium sulfate doped with a metal ion;

wherein said powder has an average primary particle diameter of 3 to 100 μm and aspect ratio of 3 to 250; and

wherein said metal ion is one selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium and zinc.

Claim 18-32. (Canceled)

Claim 33. (New) The method for recovering barrier function in a skin according to claim 16, wherein said barium sulfate doped with a metal ion is obtained by

mixing a barium compound solution containing a barium ion and a metal salt compound solution containing a metal ion, and

adding the mixture to a sulfate compound solution containing a sulfate ion.

Claim 34. (New) The method for recovering barrier function in a skin according to claim 33, wherein the barium ion, the sulfate ion and the metal ion has a mole ratio of 1 to 0.5-2.0 to 0.001-10.

Claim 35. (New) The method for preventing roughness and improving conditions of a skin according to claim 17, wherein said barium sulfate doped with a metal ion is obtained by

mixing a barium compound solution containing a barium ion and a metal salt compound solution containing a metal ion, and

adding the mixture to a sulfate compound solution containing a sulfate ion.

Claim 36. (New) The method for preventing roughness and improving conditions of a skin according to claim 35, wherein the barium ion, the sulfate ion and the metal ion has a mole ratio of 1 to 0.5-2.0 to 0.001-10.